

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 27, 2005. Claims 1-13 and 26-30 are pending.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 4-6 and 13.

Claims 1 & 27

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Okada (5,531,002). This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended requires that "a groove formed in a portion of a rear surface of said silicon substrate corresponding to said element non-forming region, wherein said groove does not extend all the way through the silicon substrate, so that *the region of the semiconductor chip that corresponds to the portion where the groove is formed is flexible*, and wherein the groove is not provided under any portion of the element forming region." Moreover, claim 27 requires that the region of the semiconductor chip that corresponds to the portion where the groove is formed is flexible, so that areas of the semiconductor chip where no groove is formed are not flexible.

Okada, according to the Office Action, in Figs. 41-42 includes silicon substrate 910, and electrodes 951-955. Okada at col. 9, lines 40-41 and col. 12, lines 41-42, explains that the entire substrate is flexible. In contrast, claim 27 discussed above requires that the semiconductor chip is flexible in the region that corresponds to the groove, but is not flexible in areas where no groove is formed (e.g., see Fig. 1C, 2B, 6B, 7, 8B, 9B, 11B, 12B of the instant application). Thus, it will be appreciated that Okada fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 27.

Other Claims

OHARA
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Claims 28/8, 29/9 and 30/10 defined over Okada in a manner similar to that discussed above with respect to claims 27/1.

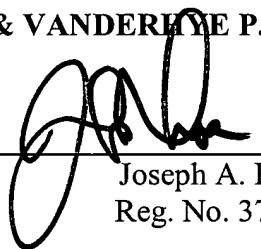
Claim 26 requires that "no part of the groove extends all the way through the silicon substrate." For example, see Figs. 1C, 2B, 6B, etc. of the instant application. Okada fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 26. Instead, Okada teaches directly away from this since all of holes 961-964 in Okada extend all the way through the substrate at most locations so that much of the alleged grooves extend all the way through the alleged substrate (e.g., see Figs. 41-42 and col. 27, line 34). Claim 26 defines over the cited art in this respect.

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHUYE P.C.

By: _____



Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100